

17 July 2006

David Wright Esq MP
House of Commons

Committee report on the Environment Agency

Thank you for your letter of 19 June concerning the inclusion of a submission from Mr Michael Ryan to the Committee's inquiry into the work of the Environment Agency in the volume of written evidence published with the Committee's Seventh Report of this session. I have now had a chance to discuss this with colleagues on the Committee.

The Committee noted your objection to Mr Ryan's evidence being printed. We also noted the statement by the Primary Care Trust referred to in your letter that Mr Ryan was citing the publication of his memorandum as "direct evidence of the credibility of his claims". On behalf of the Committee, I would like to make clear that the inclusion of a submission in the volume of written evidence published by the Committee certainly does not imply support for the views contained in it. The Committee's views are expressed solely through its reports. The Committee would be happy for you to cite this letter in response to any such claim.

You ask that Mr Ryan's submission be "withdrawn". I am afraid that it is not technically possible to withdraw written submissions once they have been reported to the House and published. However, the Committee wishes to ensure that your views, and those of the Primary Care Trust, are given comparable weight to Mr Ryan's. The Committee therefore proposes that your letter to me, and this reply, be posted on the Committee's website (www.parliament.uk/efracom) in the section containing the text of the report and the written evidence. I hope that that this to some extent meets the concerns you raise in your letter.

Rt Hon Michael Jack MP
Chairman
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee